

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing a user with remote access to an interactive television program guide over a remote access link, comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide that performs at least one program guide function is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to remotely set over the remote access link at least one program guide setting that is used by the local interactive television program guide to perform the at least one program guide function.

2. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote program access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to remotely obtain parental control information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link.

3. The system defined in claim 2 wherein:  
the remote program guide access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to remotely set a

parental control setting over the remote access link;  
and

the local interactive television program guide is further configured to lock a program based on the parental control setting.

4. The system defined in claim 3 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to indicate to the user that the program is locked with the remote access interactive television program guide.

5. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote program guide access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to remotely obtain favorites information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link.

6. The system defined in claim 5 wherein the remote program guide access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to remotely set a favorite setting over the remote access link.

7. The system defined in claim 5 wherein the remote program guide access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to remotely navigate through favorites over the remote access link.

8. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote program guide access device is further

configured to poll the local interactive television program guide and to remotely obtain polling information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link.

9. The system defined in claim 8 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to present the polling information to the user with the remote access interactive television program guide.

10. The system defined in claim 8 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to remotely obtain polling information from the local interactive television program guide using a simple network management protocol.

11. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and  
the remote program guide access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to set at least one program guide setting over the remote access link by exchanging access communications.

12. The system defined in claim 11 wherein the access communications comprise requests.

13. The system defined in claim 11 wherein the access communications comprise commands.

14. The system defined in claim 11 wherein the access communications comprise messages.

15. The system defined in claim 11 wherein the access communications comprise remote procedure calls.

16. The system defined in claim 11 wherein the access communications comprise object-based communications.

17. The system defined in claim 11 wherein the access communications comprise markup language documents.

18. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the local interactive television program guide provides the user with an opportunity to create a message using the user television equipment and to transfer the message to the remote program guide access device over the remote access link; and

the remote program guide access device is continued to access provide the message to the user with the remote access interactive television program guide.

19. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the user television equipment comprises a communications device connected to the remote access link; and

the remote program guide access device is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set the at least one program guide

setting via the communications device with the remote access interactive television program guide.

20. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the interactive television program guide equipment comprises a communications device at a television distribution facility connected to the remote access link; and

the remote program guide access device is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set the at least one program guide setting via the communications device with the remote access interactive television program guide.

21. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the interactive television program guide equipment comprises a communications device connected to a program guide server at a television distribution facility; and

the remote program guide access device is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set the at least one program guide setting via the communications device and the program guide server with the remote access interactive television program guide.

22. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the interactive television program guide equipment comprises an Internet service system connected to program guide distribution equipment located at a television distribution facility; and

the remote program guide access device is further configured to provide the user with an

opportunity to set the at least one program guide setting via the Internet service system and the program guide distribution equipment with the remote access interactive television program guide.

23. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the interactive television program guide equipment comprises an Internet service system connected to a program guide server located at a television distribution facility; and

the remote program guide access device is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set the at least one program guide setting via the Internet service system and the program guide server with the remote access interactive television program guide.

24. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the remote program guide access device is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to create a message with the remote access interactive television program guide and to transfer the message to the local interactive television program guide using the remote access link; and

the interactive television program guide equipment is further configured to present the message to the user with the local interactive television program guide.

25. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote access interactive television program guide is a remote client version of the local interactive television program guide.

26. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to communicate with the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link using terminal emulation.

27. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote access link comprises a wireless link.

28. The system defined in claim 1 wherein the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide are different interactive television program guides.

29. A system for providing a user with an opportunity to schedule programming reminders over a remote access link, comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for which a programming reminder is to be scheduled; and

30. The system defined in claim 29 wherein:  
the remote program guide access device  
and the interactive television program guide equipment  
are configured to allow the user to remotely schedule  
the programming reminder with the local interactive  
television program guide over the remote access link;  
and

31. The system defined in claim 30 wherein the local interactive television program guide generates the programming reminder for the program by sending an e-mail message to the user.

33. The system defined in claim 30 wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate the reminder with the user television equipment.



34. The system defined in claim 29 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to store the programming reminder set by the user and to generate the programming reminder with the remote access interactive television program guide.

35. A system for providing a user with an opportunity to schedule programming reminders over a remote access link, comprising:

a local interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the local interactive television program guide is further configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to select a television program for which a programming reminder is to be scheduled; and

to schedule the programming reminder over the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

36. The system defined in claim 35 wherein: the remote program guide access device and the interactive television program guide equipment are configured to allow the user to remotely schedule the programming reminder with the remote access

interactive television program guide over the remote access link; and

the remote access interactive television program guide generates the programming reminder for the program.

37. The system defined in claim 35 wherein the remote access interactive television program guide generates the programming reminder for the program by sending an e-mail message to the user.

38. The system defined in claim 35 wherein:  
the remote access program guide  
equipment comprises a pager;

the interactive television program guide  
equipment comprises a paging transmitter; and

the local interactive television program  
guide generates a programming reminder for the selected  
program by paging the user with a page that is  
transmitted to the user by the paging transmitter and  
that is displayed by the pager.

39. A system for providing a user with  
remote access to program listings information over a  
remote access link, comprising:

interactive television program guide  
equipment on which a local interactive television  
program guide is implemented, wherein the interactive  
television program guide equipment includes user  
television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device  
that is connected to the interactive television program  
guide equipment by the remote access link and on which

a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to obtain program listings information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link and to provide the program listings information to the user.

40. A system for remotely recording television programs over a remote access link, comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for recording by the remote program guide access device over the remote access link; and

to remotely record the television program selected by the user over the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide equipment is further configured to provide the program to the remote program guide access device over the

remote access link with the local interactive television program guide.

41. The system defined in claim 40 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to obtain directory information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link.

42. The system defined in claim 40 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to obtain video information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link.

43. The system defined in claim 40 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to select a video for playback by the remote program guide access device;

remotely obtain the video selected by the user for playback from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link; and

remotely play the video for the user.

44. The system defined in claim 40 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to obtain audio information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link.

45. The system defined in claim 40 wherein the remote program guide access device is further configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to select audio for playback by the remote program guide access device;

remotely obtain the audio selected by the user for playback from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link; and

remotely play the audio for the user.

46. A system for recording programs via a remote access link, comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to remotely select a program for recording by a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment; and

the interactive television program guide equipment is further configured to record the television program selected by the user with the interactive television program guide equipment.

47. The system defined in claim 46 wherein the interactive television program guide equipment is configured to record the television program selected by the user on the user television equipment.

48. The system defined in claim 46 wherein the interactive television program guide equipment is configured to record the television program selected by the user at a television distribution facility.

49. A system for remotely playing back programs via a remote access link, comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for playing by the remote access device; and

to play the television program selected by the user using the remote access link; and

the interactive television program guide equipment is further configured to provide the program to the remote program guide access device over the remote access link with the local interactive television program guide.

50. A system for remotely ordering pay-per-view programs with a local interactive television program guide via a remote access link, the system comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide that performs at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs is implemented, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment includes user television equipment; and

a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access interactive television program guide is implemented, wherein the remote program guide access device is configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to order a pay-per-view program with the remote access interactive television program guide; and

provide the local interactive television program guide with an indication of the ordered-pay-per-view program; and

the local interactive television program guide performs the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs based on the indication.

51. The system defined in claim 50 wherein the interactive television program guide equipment is further configured to order the pay-per-view program with the local interactive television program guide.

52. The system defined in claim 50 wherein:  
the function related to ordering pay-per-view programs includes displaying a reminder that the pay-per-view program was missed;

the user television equipment is configured to display a reminder that the pay-per-view program was missed with the local interactive television program guide.

53. The system defined in claim 50 wherein:  
the function related to ordering pay-per-view programs includes displaying a reminder that the pay-per-view program is starting; and

the user television equipment is configured to display a reminder that the pay-per-view program is starting with the local interactive television program guide.

54. A system for providing a user with remote access to functions of an interactive television program guide over an Internet link, the system comprising:

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide configured to perform at least one program guide function is implemented;

an Internet service system configured to provide an on-line guide;

a personal computer connected to the Internet service system by the Internet link, wherein:

the personal computer is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to remotely set at

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least one program guide setting over the Internet link using the on-line guide;

the Internet service system is configured to provide the at least one program guide setting to the interactive television program guide equipment; and

the interactive television program guide is configured to perform the at least one program guide function using the at least one program guide setting.

55. A system for providing a user with remote access to a non-program-guide interactive television application over a remote access link, comprising:

user television equipment having a set-top box on which a non-program-guide interactive television application having at least one function is implemented; and

a remote access device that is connected to the user television equipment by the remote access link and on which a remote access non-program-guide interactive television application is implemented, wherein the remote access device is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to remotely set over the remote access link at least one non-program-guide interactive television application setting that is used by the local non-program-guide interactive television application to perform the at least one function.

56. The system defined in claim 55 wherein the non-program-guide interactive television

application implemented on the set-top box is an Internet browser.

57. The system defined in claim 55 wherein the non-program-guide interactive television application implemented on the set-top box is a shopping application.

58. The system defined in claim 55 wherein the non-program-guide interactive television application implemented on the set-top box is a stock ticker.

59. The system defined in claim 55 wherein the non-program-guide interactive television application implemented on the set-top box is a chat application.

60. The system defined in claim 55 wherein the non-program-guide interactive television application implemented on the set-top box is an e-mail application.

61. A method for providing a user with remote access to an interactive television program guide over a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting using a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device;

providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to

interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented via the remote access link; and

performing a program guide function with the local interactive television program guide based on the at least one program guide setting.

62. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the step of providing the user with an opportunity to remotely obtain parental control information from the local interactive television program guide using the remote access interactive television program guide.

63. The method defined in claim 62 wherein: the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises providing the user with an opportunity to set a parental control setting using the remote access interactive television program guide; and

the method further comprises the step of locking a program based on the parental control setting with the local interactive television program guide.

64. The method defined in claim 63 further comprising the step of indicating to the user that the program is locked with the remote access interactive television program guide.

65. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the step of providing the user with an opportunity to remotely obtain favorites information

from the local interactive television program guide using the remote access interactive television program guide.

66. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises providing the user with an opportunity to remotely set a favorite setting using the remote access interactive television program guide.

67. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the step of providing the user with an opportunity to remotely navigate through favorites using the remote access interactive television program guide.

68. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the steps of:

- polling the local interactive television program guide with the remote access interactive television program guide; and
- remotely obtaining polling information from the local interactive television program guide via the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

69. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the step of presenting the polling information to the user with the remote program guide access device.

70. The method defined in claim 68 wherein the step of remotely obtaining polling information from the local interactive television program guide comprises remotely obtaining polling information using a simple network management protocol.

71. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises exchanging access communications between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

72. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link, and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises exchanging requests between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

73. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises exchanging commands between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

74. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises exchanging messages between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

75. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises exchanging remote procedure calls between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

76. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises exchanging object-based communications between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

77. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting

comprises providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting over the remote access link by exchanging markup language documents between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

78. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to create a message using the local interactive television program guide;

transferring the message to the remote program guide access device using the remote access link; and

providing the message to the user with the remote access interactive television program guide.

79. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via a communications device in the user television equipment connected to the remote access link.

80. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via

the remote access link comprises providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via a communications device at a television distribution facility connected to the remote access link.

81. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via a communications device connected to a program guide server at a television distribution facility.

82. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via an Internet service system connected to program guide distribution equipment located at a television distribution facility.

83. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via



the remote access link comprises providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via an Internet service system connected to a program guide server located at a television distribution facility.

84. The method defined in claim 61 further comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to create a message using the remote access interactive television program guide;

transferring the message to the interactive television program guide equipment using the remote access link; and

providing the message to the user with the local interactive television program guide.

85. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:

the remote access interactive television program guide is a remote client version of the local interactive television program guide; and

the step of providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting using the remote client version of the local interactive television program guide.

86. The method defined in claim 61 wherein the step of providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to

the interactive television program guide equipment comprises providing the at least one program guide setting to the interactive television program guide equipment using terminal emulation.

87. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access link comprises a  
wireless link; and

the step of providing the at least one  
program guide setting from the remote program guide  
access device to the interactive television program  
guide equipment comprises providing the at least one  
program guide setting to the interactive television  
program guide equipment using the wireless link.

88. The method defined in claim 61 wherein:  
the remote access interactive television  
program guide is a first interactive television program  
guide;

the local interactive television program  
guide is a second interactive television program guide  
that is different from the first interactive television  
program guide; and

the step of providing the at least one  
program guide setting from the remote program guide  
access device to the interactive television program  
guide equipment comprises providing the at least one  
program guide setting from the first interactive  
television program guide to the second interactive  
television program guide.

89. A method for remotely scheduling programming reminders over a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for which a programming reminder is to be scheduled with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device; and

generating the programming reminder with a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment.

90. The method defined in claim 89 further comprising the step of remotely scheduling the programming reminder over the remote access link with the local interactive television program guide using the remote access interactive television program guide.

91. The method defined in claim 89 wherein the step of generating the programming reminder for the program with the local interactive television program guide comprises generating the programming reminder for the program by sending an e-mail message to the user.

92. The method defined in claim 89 wherein the step of generating the programming reminder for the program with the local interactive television program guide comprises generating the programming reminder by paging the user with a page that is transmitted to the user by a paging transmitter.

93. The method defined in claim 89 further comprising:

storing the programming reminder with the remote program guide access device; and

generating the programming reminder with the remote access interactive television program guide.

94. The method defined in claim 89 wherein the step of generating the programming reminder for the program with the local interactive television program guide comprises displaying the reminder with the user television equipment.

95. A method for remotely scheduling programming reminders over a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a user with an opportunity to select a television program for which a programming reminder is to be scheduled with a local interactive television program guide, wherein the interactive television program guide is implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment; and

generating the programming reminder with a remote access program guide implemented or a remote program guide access device that is connected to the interactive television program guide equipment by the remote access link.

96. The method defined in claim 95 wherein the step of generating the programming reminder comprises generating an e-mail message having the

programming reminder using the remote access program guide.

97. The method defined in claim 95 wherein the step of generating the programming reminder comprises generating the reminder on a pager with the remote access interactive television program guide.

98. A method for providing a user with remote access to program listings information over a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining program listings information with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device from a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment over the remote access link; and
- providing the program listings information to the user with the remote access interactive television program guide.

99. A method for remotely recording a television program over a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for recording over the remote access link by a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device from a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment; and

remotely recording the television program selected by the user over the remote access link with the remote program guide access device.

100. The method defined in claim 99 further comprising the step of obtaining directory information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

101. The method defined in claim 99 further comprising the step of obtaining video information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

102. The method defined in claim 99 further comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to select a video for playback by the remote program guide access device with the remote access interactive television program guide;

remotely obtaining the video selected by the user for playback from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link with the remote program guide access device; and

remotely playing the video for the user with the remote program guide access device.

103. The method defined in claim 99 further comprising the step of obtaining audio information from the local interactive television program guide over the

remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

104. The method defined in claim 99 further comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to select audio for playback by the remote program guide access device with the remote access interactive television program guide;

remotely obtaining the audio selected by the user for playback from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link using the remote program guide access device; and

remotely playing the audio for the user with the remote program guide access device.

105. A method for recording programs via a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to select a program for recording by a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device; and

recording the program selected by the user with the local interactive television program guide on the interactive television program guide equipment.

106. The method defined in claim 105 wherein recording the program selected by the user with the local interactive television program guide on the

interactive television program guide equipment comprises recording the program on the user television equipment.

107. The method defined in claim 105 wherein recording the program selected by the user with the local interactive television program guide on the interactive television program guide equipment comprises recording the program at a television distribution facility.

108. A method for remotely playing programs over a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for playing with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device;

obtaining the television program from a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment with the remote access television program guide; and

remotely playing the television program with the remote program guide access device.

109. A method for remotely ordering pay-per-view programs with a local interactive television program guide via a remote access link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to order a pay-per-view program with a remote access



interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device; and

providing a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment with an indication of the ordered-pay-per-view program, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment is connected to the remote program guide access device via the remote access link, and wherein the interactive television program guide equipment comprises user television equipment; and

performing the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs with the local interactive television program guide based on the indication.

110. The method defined in claim 109 further comprising the step of the pay-per-view program with the local interactive television program guide.

111. The method defined in claim 109 wherein the step of performing the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs with the local interactive television program guide based on the indication comprises displaying a reminder that the pay-per-view program was missed on the user television equipment.

112. The method defined in claim 109 wherein step of performing the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs with the local interactive television program guide based on the indication comprises displaying a reminder that the

pay-per-view program is starting on the user television equipment.

113. A method for providing a user with remote access to functions of an interactive television program guide over an Internet link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with an opportunity to remotely set at least one program guide setting over the Internet link using a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a personal computer connected to an Internet service system by the Internet link;

providing the at least one program guide setting over the Internet link to a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment; and

performing the at least one program guide function with the local interactive television program guide using the at least one program guide setting.

114. A system for providing a user with remote access to functions of an interactive television program guide over a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting using a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device;

means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide

access device to interactive television program guide equipment on which a local interactive television program guide is implemented via the remote access link; and

means for performing a program guide function with the local interactive television program guide based on the at least one program guide setting.

115. The system defined in claim 114 further comprising the means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely obtain parental control information from the local interactive television program guide using the remote access interactive television program guide.

116. The system defined in claim 115 wherein:  
the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for providing the user with an opportunity to set a parental control setting using the remote access interactive television program guide; and  
the system further comprises means for locking a program based on the parental control setting with the local interactive television program guide.

117. The system defined in claim 116 further comprising means for indicating to the user that the program is locked with the remote access interactive television program guide.

118. The system defined in claim 114 further comprising means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely obtain favorites information

from the local interactive television program guide using the remote access interactive television program guide.

119. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely set a favorite setting using the remote access interactive television program guide.

120. The system defined in claim 114 further comprising means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely navigate through favorites using the remote access interactive television program guide.

121. The system defined in claim 114 further comprising:

means for polling the local interactive television program guide with the remote access interactive television program guide; and

means for remotely obtaining polling information from the local interactive television program guide via the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

122. The system defined in claim 121 further comprising means for presenting the polling information to the user with the remote program guide access device.

123. The system defined in claim 121 wherein the means for remotely obtaining polling information from the local interactive television program guide comprises means for remotely obtaining polling information using a simple network management protocol.

124. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging access communications between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

125. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link, and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging requests between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

126. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging commands between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

127. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging messages between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

128. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging remote procedure calls between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

129. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging object-based communications between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

130. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link is a bi-directional link; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for exchanging markup language documents between the remote access interactive television program guide and the local interactive television program guide.

131. The system defined in claim 114 further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to create a message using the local interactive television program guide;

means for transferring the message to the remote program guide access device using the remote access link; and

means for providing the message to the user with the remote access interactive television program guide.

132. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via a communications device in the user television equipment connected to the remote access link.

133. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to

the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via a communications device at a television distribution facility connected to the remote access link.

134. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via a communications device connected to a program guide server at a television distribution facility.

135. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via an Internet service system connected to program guide distribution equipment located at a television distribution facility.

136. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the at least one program guide



setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via the remote access link comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment via an Internet service system connected to a program guide server located at a television distribution facility.

137. The system defined in claim 114 further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to create a message using the remote access interactive television program guide;

means for transferring the message to the interactive television program guide equipment using the remote access link; and

means for providing the message to the user with the local interactive television program guide.

138. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:

the remote access interactive television program guide is a remote client version of the local interactive television program guide; and

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting comprises means for providing the user with an opportunity to set at least one program guide setting using the remote client version of the local interactive television program guide.

139. The system defined in claim 114 wherein the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting to the interactive television program guide equipment using terminal emulation.

140. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access link comprises means for a wireless link; and  
the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting to the interactive television program guide equipment using the wireless link.

141. The system defined in claim 114 wherein:  
the remote access interactive television program guide is a first interactive television program guide;

the local interactive television program guide is a second interactive television program guide that is different from the first interactive television program guide; and

the means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the remote program guide access device to the interactive television program guide equipment comprises means for providing the at least one program guide setting from the first

interactive television program guide to the second interactive television program guide.

142. A system for remotely scheduling programming reminders over a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for which a reminder is to be scheduled over the remote access link by a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device; and

means for scheduling a programming reminder for the selected program with a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment using the remote access interactive television program guide via the remote access link.

143. The system defined in claim 142 wherein the system further comprises means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the local interactive television program guide.

144. The system defined in claim 142 wherein the means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the local interactive television program guide comprises means for generating the programming reminder for the program by sending an e-mail message to the user.

145. The system defined in claim 142 wherein the means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the local interactive television program guide comprises means for generating the programming reminder by paging the user with a page that is transmitted to the user by a paging transmitter.

146. The system defined in claim 142 further comprising:

means for storing the programming reminder with the remote program guide access device; and

means for generating the programming reminder with the remote access interactive television program guide.

147. The system defined in claim 142 wherein the means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the local interactive television program guide comprises means for generating the reminder with the user television equipment.

148. A system for remotely scheduling programming reminders over a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to select a television program for which a reminder is to be scheduled over the remote access link by a local interactive television program guide implemented on a local interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment; and

means for scheduling a programming reminder for the selected program with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device using the local interactive television program guide via the remote access link.

149. The system defined in claim 148 wherein the system further comprises means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the remote access interactive television program guide.

150. The system defined in claim 149 wherein the means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the remote access interactive television program guide comprises means for generating the programming reminder for the program by sending an e-mail message to the user.

151. The system defined in claim 149 wherein the means for generating the programming reminder for the program using the remote access interactive television program guide comprises means for generating the programming reminder by paging the user with a page that is transmitted to the user by a paging transmitter.

152. A system for providing a user with remote access to program listings information over a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for obtaining program listings information with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide

access device from a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment over the remote access link; and

means for providing the program listings information to the user with the remote access interactive television program guide.

153. A system for remotely recording a television program over a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for recording over the remote access link by a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device from a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment; and

means for remotely recording the television program selected by the user over the remote access link with the remote program guide access device.

154. The system defined in claim 153 further comprising means for obtaining directory information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

155. The system defined in claim 153 further comprising means for obtaining video information from the local interactive television program guide over the

remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

156. The system defined in claim 153 further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to select a video for playback by the remote program guide access device with the remote access interactive television program guide;

means for remotely obtaining the video selected by the user for playback from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link with the remote program guide access device; and

means for remotely playing the video for the user with the remote program guide access device.

157. The system defined in claim 153 further comprising means for obtaining audio information from the local interactive television program guide over the remote access link with the remote access interactive television program guide.

158. The system defined in claim 153 further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to select audio for playback by the remote program guide access device with the remote access interactive television program guide;

means for remotely obtaining the audio selected by the user for playback from the local interactive television program guide over the remote





162. A system for remotely playing a television program over a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely select a television program for playing with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device;

means for obtaining the television program from a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment with the remote access television program guide; and

means for remotely playing the television program with the remote program guide access device.

163. A system for remotely ordering pay-per-view programs with a local interactive television program guide via a remote access link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to order a pay-per-view program with a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a remote program guide access device;

means for providing a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment with an indication of the ordered-pay-per-view program, wherein the interactive television program guide equipment is connected to the remote program guide access device via the remote access link, and wherein the interactive

television program guide equipment comprises means for user television equipment; and

means for performing the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs with the local interactive television program guide based on the indication.

164. The system defined in claim 163 further comprising means for the pay-per-view program with the local interactive television program guide.

165. The system defined in claim 163 wherein the means for performing the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs with the local interactive television program guide based on the indication comprises means for displaying a reminder that the pay-per-view program was missed on the user television equipment.

166. The system defined in claim 163 wherein the means for performing the at least one function related to ordering pay-per-view programs with the local interactive television program guide based on the indication comprises means for displaying a reminder that the pay-per-view program is starting on the user television equipment.

167. A system for providing a user with remote access to functions of an interactive television program guide over an Internet link, the system comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to remotely set at least one program guide

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setting over the Internet link using a remote access interactive television program guide implemented on a personal computer connected to an Internet service system by the Internet link;

means for providing the at least one program guide setting over the Internet link to a local interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment; and

means for performing the at least one program guide function with the local interactive television program guide using the at least one program guide setting.

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